Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 13 and 14.

Claims 15-23 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter claimed therein.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for ~~increasing fluid loss through the feces~~ treating a fluid overload state in a host, the method comprising ~~the step of~~ directly ~~administering~~ delivering to the intestinal tract of the host an effective amount of a water-absorbent polymer ~~for increasing the fluid in the feces~~, wherein the water-absorbent polymer is capable of absorbing at least 10 times its weight in physiological saline.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~method is used in the treatment of nocturia~~ fluid overload state is congestive heart failure, cirrhosis of the liver, nephrosis, ascites, renal disease, edema associated with chemotherapy, pre-menstrual fluid overload, or preeclampsia.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer is enterically coated and the method of delivery is oral administration.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer is capable of absorbing at least 20 times its weight in physiological saline.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer is capable of absorbing at least 30 times its weight in physiological saline.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer is capable of absorbing at least 40 times its weight in physiological saline.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer is formed by polymerizing acrylate containing monomers.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer is formed by polymerizing a monomer comprising acrylic acid or salts thereof.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer is a polysaccharide.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer is enterically coated and the enteric coating is selected from at least one of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate, methacrylic acid polymers, or polymers of derivatives of methacrylic acid.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer is placed within an enterically coated capsule.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the polymer is placed within an enterically coated capsule and the enteric coating is selected from at least one of: hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate, methacrylic acid polymers, or polymers of derivatives of methacrylic acid.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 2, wherein the ~~method is used in the treatment of fluid-responsive hypertension~~ fluid overload state is renal disease.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim ~~13~~ 2, wherein the ~~polymer is enterically coated and the method of delivery is oral administration~~ the fluid overload state is congestive heart failure.

Claim 15-23 (Cancelled):